原作・監修 竜騎士07
作画 夏海ケイ
うみねこのなく頃に
Episode 3
Banquet of the golden witch

IT HAS BEEN A WHILE, TEACHER
IT SEEMS YOU'RE STILL TOYING WITH INNOCENT PEOPLE IN DISTASTEFUL GAMES.
I BELIEVE I TAUGHT YOU COUNTLESS TIMES THAT ENDLESS MAGIC SHOULD NEVER BE USED FOR EVIL.
YOU NEVER STOP WITH THE LECTURES.
BOREDOM IS THE MORTAL ENEMY OF US WITCHES.
THIS IS NOTHING MORE THAN A BIT OF SPICE TO ESCAPE FROM THAT.

...IT SEEMS IT WAS A WISE DECISION TO SLEEP NEARBY YOU IN PREPARATION FOR THE WORST CASE SCENARIO.
...
RONOVE, HAVE THE FURNITURE GIRLS STAND BACK.
MY NAME AND THE TITLE OF ENDLESS WITCH..
I WILL BE TAKING BOTH OF THOSE BACK FROM YOU NOW...!
BEATRICE
...
TURNING THAT NAME OVER TO YOU IS THE ONLY REGRET I HAVE IN MY ENTIRE LIFE.

YOUR ERA HAS LONG PASSED,
TEA-CHEE-EEE-EEE-EEE-EEE-EER !!!
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT MAGIC ? IT'S ONLY THE POWER TO NOTICE! AND YET YOU SWAGGERED AROUND AND ACTED SO ARROGANT ABOUT IT !
THE ONLY MISTAKE IN MY LIFE WAS BECOMING YOUR APPRENTICE JUST TO LEARN THIS LEVEL OF POWER!
YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG, TEACHER.

CHAPTER 8:
[THE GREAT MAGIC BATTLE]
EEEEK!
AAAA-AAGH...!
IF YOU GET CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE, YOU'LL END UP AS DIRT
BE CAREFUL
KUKUKUKUKU
IMPRESSIVE, TEACHER.
LOOKS LIKE I WON'T BE ABLE TO WIN IF I DON'T FEEL LIKE TEARING UP THE ISLAND HUH?

EEEEK!
COME, ARISE
SHOULDER WAR TOWERS !!

THE DENSITY OF THE TWIN TOWERS' BARRAGE WILL TURN YOU INTO NOTHING BUT A THOROUGHLY STARCHED PINCUSHION OF A DOLL!
DON'T THINK YOU CAN AVOID IT BY TURNING INTO A BUTTERFLY, OKAY?
BLAST AWAAAAAY!

SPLIT APART THE SINGLE LANGUAGE AND MAKE KNOWN THE SIN.
COME ARISE FALLEN TOWER.

KUHAHAHA HYAHAHAHA!
THAT'S TEACHER FOR YOU!
IF YOU DO SOMETHING, YOU DO IT BIG!
S...SHE DEFENDED AGAINST THE TWIN TOWERS WITH THAT EXPLOSION ...!
WHAT A SAD THING...
...YOU'VE ONLY IMPROVED YOUR SKILL AT THIS KIND OF FIGHTING, BEATRICE
I WONDER IF I COULD BECOME A WITCH LIKE YOU, BEATRICE
AND FIND ETERNAL HAPPINESS ...
COME, ARISE, SONS OF IVALDI
BESTOW UPON ME A WORTHY SPEAR.

HA!
THE DIVINE SPEAR, GUNGNIR...? YOU REALLY ARE AMAZING, TEACHEEEER!!
HOW FOOLISH THAT YOU CUT OFF YOUR OWN PATHS OF RETREAT ON BOTH SIDES BY CALLING FORTH THE TWIN TOWERS.
NOW YOU CAN'T EVEN DEFEND AGAINST A SINGLE SPEAR!

COME, ARISE, GIANT SOLDIER BATTLE LINE
AND DISCIPLES OF HEPHAESTUS!
BESTOW UPON ME A WORTHY SHIELD!

S-SHE DEFENDED AGAINST THE DIVINE SPEAR...?!
NO. IT IS A LAW OF THE GODS THAT THE ABSOLUTE SPEAR AND THE ABSOLUTE SHIELD MUST NOT FIGHT EACH OTHER.
THE TWO REPELLED AND OFFSET EACH OTHER.
あ
BESTOW UPON ME THE HERO'S SPEAR OF THUNDER!
COME, ARISE, MAGICAL PRINCESS SCATHACH!
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF LAW, I SHALL RETURN A SPEAR WITH A SPEAR.
ビキ...
バチ
バチ
バチ

SMASH HER TO PIECES, GIANT SOLDIERS!
CHANGE THE SPEAR OF THUNDER INTO INFINITE BOLTS OF LIGHTNING AND PIERCE THROUGH THE ENEMY!!
!!

SHE DID IT.. !!
YOU DID IT, BEATRICE-SAMAAA!!
S...
...SHE'S REALLY QUITE IM-PRESSIVE.
THAT MADAM BEATRICE

UOOOOHHHH!!
THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN...
REST IN PEACE.
SMOTHERED MATE.

BE...
BEATRICE-SAMA...!

YOU ARE TOO IMMATURE TO BE CALLED THE ENDLESS WITCH
THE TITLE AND POWER OF THE ENDLESS WITCH...
AS WELL AS THE NAME BEATRICE. LET'S HAVE YOU RETURN THOSE TO ME NOW.
KUHIHI HI...
THAT HURTS
IT'S OVER, BEATRICE

ウ？！
！
LET'S RETURN YOU TO YOUR ORIGINAL FORM
RELINQUISH THE POWER THAT WAS TOO MUCH FOR YOU AND LIVE A LIFE SUITABLE FOR YOURSELF
COME, TRY TO REMEMBER. WHAT KIND OF FORM DID YOU HAVE...?
STOP IT...
WA, AAH...
FORGIVE ME ALREADY, TEACHER...

IF WE DO THAT, EVERYTHING WILL BE OVER SOON
LET'S END YOUR PAIN AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE
COME, BEATRICE RECITE IT TOGETHER WITH ME
LET'S SING TOGETHER
HAHA... HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE I SANG TOGETHER WITH YOU, TEACHER...? THIS TAKES ME BACK...
WHAT KIND OF FORM DID YOU HAVE...?
...COME, TRY TO REMEMBER...

...IT'S ALRIGHT
YOU WILL NO LONGER BE MY DISCIPLE, BUT THAT WILL NOT CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOU ARE THE LADY I SERVE.
... YEAH ... TRY TO REMEMBER ...
COME ... TRY TO REMEMBER ...
... LET'S READ BOOKS TOGETHER AGAIN
LET ME BAKE YOU AN APPLE PIE
HAVE YOU... FINALLY STARTED TO REMEMBER.
... TEACHER ...?

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED YOUR FINAL MOMEEENTS...?
.....
WHAT ...?

COME, TRY TO REMEMBER
WHAT KIND OF FORM DID YOU HAVE...?
KUKUKU
HOW WERE YOU KILLED...?
WHAT...
IS THIS...?
DECLARING CHECK SO LATE WAS MY ONE BREACH OF MANNERS, I SHALL APOLOGIZE FOR THAT.
AND YOU CARELESSLY STEPPED OVER THAT AND BECAME THE PREY OF BALLISTA BULLETS.
THE BOUNDARY LINE OF DEATH WAS DRAWN OUT BY THE HIDDEN TOWERS LURKING FAR IN THE DISTANCE ON EITHER SIDE OF YOU...
IN THE BEGINNING, I DIDN'T SUMMON THE SHOULDER TOWERS. I SUMMONED THE QUADRUPLET TOWERS.

WHYYY?!
WH... Y...
BECAUSE THAT WOULD BE TOO DULL, WOULDN'T IIIT? FINISHING THINGS WITH THE FIRST MOVE, I MEAAAN!
THAT'S WHY I REVIVED YOU IN AN INSTANT AND TRIED PLAYING A LITTLE MOOOORE!
IT WAS FUN, TEACHER! WHENEVER I FEEL LIKE PLAYING AGAIN, I'LL BRING YOU BACK TO LIFE. AND ONCE I'VE PLAYED ENOUGH, I'LL MAKE YOU REMEMBER THE FACT THAT YOU'RE A CORPSEEE!
.....
.....

...I'D EXPECT NO LESS FROM TEACHER. IF I HADN'T FOOLED HER WITH THE QUADRUPLET TOWERS, I WOULD HAVE BEEN THE ONE TO DIE...
YES
WITH THIS MILADY, CAN'T YOU PRIDE YOURSELF ON THE FACT THAT YOU'VE SURPASSED YOUR PREDECESSOR, MADAM?
RONOVE. CLEAN UP TEACHER'S REMAINS A BIT.
I HAVE NOT LOST THAT MUCH RESPECT FOR HER.
...
UNDERSTOOD.
HOW SHALL I CONSTRUCT THE FIRST TWILIGHT? ANOTHER CLOSED ROOM MURDER?

I SHALL LEAVE THE MATTER OF THE SIX CORPSES TO YOU
MAKE IT AN EXCELLENT CLOSED ROOM THAT WILL FORCE BATTLER TO WRACK HIS BRAINS, IF YOU WOULD
UNDERSTOOD

BATTLEEER! DID YOU SEE MY SHINING MOMEEENT?!
COME, IT'S YOUR MOVE, BATTLER-SAMA LET US HEAR YOUR COUNTER-ARGUMENT
MILADY IS LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR COUNTERATTACK, YOU SEE...?
SHANNON-CHAN PROTECTING KANON-KUN WITH SOME SORT OF WEIRD BARRIER?
KANON-KUN PRODUCING SOME WEIRD SWORD FROM HIS HAND AND FIGHTING WITH BEATO'S FURNITURE!
ON TOP OF THAT, KUMASAWA-BAA-CHAN SUDDENLY TRANS-FORMED INTO SOME YOUNG LADY WEARING A DRESS?!
THEN THE ROSE GARDEN SPLIT APART, TOWERS BURST FROM THE GROUND, AND THERE WAS A FLASHY FANTASY BATTLE WITH MAGICAL BALLISTAS AND GIANT SOLDIER LINES AND SPEARS AND SHIELDS...?!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO ARGUE BACK AFTER YOU SHOW ME ALL THIS?! DAMMIIIIT !!!

THAT'S A NICE FACE, BATTLEEER.
I CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF IT. LOOK THIS WAY, C'MON, C'MON!
OOH, SORRY, SORRY. WHEN I SEE BATTLER CLOSING HIS EYES TIGHTLY, GRINDING HIS TEETH, AND MAKING THAT DISTRESSED FACE, IT SIMPLY SPILLS OUT, YOU SEEE?
MILADY, YOUR LAUGH IS UNDIGNIFIED.
I CAN TELL. DON'T TRY TO HIDE IT, OKAY?
OKAY?
SOME TEENAGE BRATS GETTING LOTS OF STRANGE POWERS, AND GOING ALL OUT WITH THE FATE OF THE WORLD AT RISK! THERE'S BEEN A FLOOD OF PLOTS LIKE THAT THESE DAYS, HASN'T THERE?! I BET YOU ALSO LOVE STORIES LIKE THAT.
C'MON, C'MON, ANSWER.
IT'S YOUR MOVE. IF YOU DON'T ARGUE BACK OR PASS OR RESIGN, THE GAME CAN'T MOVE FORWARD, RIGHT?
JUST OBEDIENTLY SAY, "SORRY, BEATRICE-SAMA, WITCHES REALLY DO EXIST." SAY IT, SAY IT.
DON'T BE EMBARRA-SSED!
HOW COME YOU BELIEVE IN MANGA AND ANIME BUT YOU WON'T BELIEVE IN MEEE?
THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN COME UP WITH A COUNTERATTACK. YOU ACTUALLY LOVE THIS KIND OF FANTASY, DON'T YOU??
COME OOON, DON'T CRY! IF YOU WANT, I CAN CREATE ANYTHING WITH MY MAGIC, OKAY? WHETHER IT'S COMETS OR DEMONS OR THOSE BIG-BREASTED GIRLS YOU LIKE SO MUUUCH!

SHUT THE HELL UUU- UUU- UUU- UUU- UUU- UUUP !!!
...!
WITCHES AND MAGIC DON'T EXIST!
JUST DO WHAT YOU WANT! I WON'T BELIEVE ANY OF IT! I'LL NEVER ACCEPT SOMETHING THAT RIDICULOUS!!

DISAPPEAR, DISAPPEAR, JUST DISAPPEAR ALREADY!
LIKE I CARE ABOUT YOUR GAME! I'M NOT GOING ALONG WITH THIS!
B... BUT IF YOU DON'T MAKE YOUR MOVE,
MY TURN WILL NEVER COME...
DON'T GET THAT ANNOYING FACE NEAR MEEEEEE!!!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO TALK TO ME!
THE GAME WON'T BE ABLE TO CONTINUE...
AAAAAA-AAAAA-AAAA-AAH!
BA...
BATTLER

BEATO SAID IT, TOO. IT'S BECAUSE I SURRENDERED THAT THIS WORLD BECAME TINTED WITH MAGIC AND WITCHES...
THAT'S WHY... I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT WITH ANYTHING BUT "MAGIC."
JUST EARLIER A TREMENDOUS MAGIC BATTLE UNFOLDED HERE...
BUT NOW THERE'S NO TRACE OF IT...
THE GROUND IS AS SOLID AS YOU'D EXPECT... I CAN'T REALISTICALLY EXPLAIN HOW TOWERS SPLIT THIS GROUND AND SPRUNG UP ONE AFTER THE OTHER...

MAYBE I JUST HAD MY OWN MISCONCEPTION THAT I WAS PLAYING A GAME ON EQUAL FOOTING WITH BEATO... WHEN I WAS MERELY THROWING A TANTRUM WHERE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR ME TO OPPOSE HER...?
YOU'RE...
BEATO'S TEACHER
I SEE MY DISCIPLE HAS CAUSED YOU QUITE A BIT OF TROUBLE
I THOUGHT YOU'D DIED... SO YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?
I DID DIE RIGHT NOW I AM NOTHING MORE THAN A TAKEN PIECE RELAXING OUTSIDE THE CHESSBOARD
HAVE YOU SURRENDERED COMPLETELY?
WELL, YEAH...
THAT FLASHY BATTLE SURPASSED THE DOMAIN OF THINGS THAT CAN BE EXPLAINED WITH TRICKS OR A HUMAN CULPRIT THEORY.
I'M NOT THE ONE WHO CAN DEFEAT HER.
IT'S YOU, WHO CAN USE THAT AMAZING MAGIC.
WRONG.
I AM NOTHING MORE THAN A PIECE ON HER GAME BOARD...
BUT YOU ARE HER OPPONENT.

...IF THAT IS WHAT YOU WANT...
I WOULDN'T MIND TEACHING YOU A BIT ABOUT MAGIC.
SO LONG AS YOU DON'T ABANDON THE GAME YOURSELF YOU ALWAYS HAVE THE POWER TO STRIKE BACK AT HER
HOW'S THAT?
ARE YOU GOING TO TEACH ME MAGIC SO I CAN GET INTO A FLASHY BATTLE WITH HER?
HUH?!
IN JAPANESE MAGIC, I BELIEVE THERE IS A CEREMONY IN WHICH ONE PRAYS FOR RAIN
BY OFFERING UP A SACRED FIRE TO THE HEAVENS AND PERFORMING A DANCE, THE ENTREATY FOR RAIN REACHES THE HEARTS OF THE GODS

THEN WHY DO THINGS BURN? ISN'T THAT BECAUSE PHLOGISTON IS A PART OF THEIR SUBSTANCE?
THINGS BURN BECAUSE OF A CHEMICAL REACTION. THE PHLOGISTON THEORY SHOULD HAVE BEEN DISPROVED BY LAVOISIER.
THEN DOESN'T HEAT TRAVEL THOUGH THINGS BECAUSE CALORIC IS A PART OF THEIR SUBSTANCE?
JOULE DISPROVED THAT ONE HEAT IS ENERGY, NOT A SUBSTANCE
UPDRAFT
WATER VAPOR IN THE ATMOSPHERE
RAINDROPS THAT GREW INSIDE THE CLOUDS BECOME RAIN
THAT'S NOT MAGIC
PEOPLE MIGHT HAVE BELIVED IT WAS MAGIC LONG AGO WHEN THEY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND REASON... BUT MOST OCCULT THINGS LIKE THAT CAN BE EXPLAINED WITH SCIENCE.
IT'S A SCIENTIFIC PHENOMENON WHERE THE FIRE CAUSES AN UPDRAFT, AND AS A RESULT, RAIN CLOUDS GATHER
...JUST AS HOW IN THE PAST, IT WAS EVEN SAID THAT AN APPLE FALLING FROM A TREE WAS THANKS TO GOD'S LOVE, SO THAT PEOPLE WOULD BE GIVEN FOOD...
WELL, IT'S JUST SOME RANDOM FACTS
YOU'VE STUDIED WELL.
YOUR KNOWLEDGE IS CORRECT

HUMANS USED TO CALL THEIR IGNORANCE IN AND OF ITSELF "MAGIC"
THEY KNEW OF THE RESULTS THEY COULD OBTAIN FROM A SCIENTIFIC PHENOMENON THROUGH EXPERIENCE...
BUT THEY COULD NOT EXPLAIN THOSE RESULTS DUE TO THEIR IGNORANCE SO THE PROCESS OF THAT PHENOMENON WAS "MAGIC"...
IN THAT CASE...
EVEN IF YOU THINK IT'S OBVIOUS THAT WHEN YOU FLIP THE SWITCH, THE BRAUN TUBES INSIDE THE TELEVISION SHOW A PICTURE...
COULDN'T YOU SAY THAT, TO SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THAT PRINCIPLE, THE PROCESS IS "MAGIC"?
I SEE THAT'S INTERESTING
ALL WE'RE REALLY AWARE OF IS THAT "SOMETHING AWESOME HAPPENS INSIDE THE BRAUN TUBES" THAT CAUSES THE PICTURE TO APPEAR ON THE TV...
I GUESS THAT REALLY ISN'T MUCH DIFFERENT FROM MAGIC...
SHALL I TELL YOU ABOUT HOW BRAUN TUBES ARE CONSTRUCTED?

GREMLINS ARE SHUT UP INSIDE THE BRAUN TUBES, AND THEY MAKE THE PICTURE SHOW UP WITH MAGIC
HUUUUH?
THERE'S NO WAY THERE ARE GREMLINS INSIDE, RIGHT?! I REMEMBER READING IN A BOOK THAT IT'S LIKE "ELECTRONS HIT A FLOURESCENT MATERIAL" AND SO ON
I HAVEN'T, BUT...
...THAT MEANS...
MY THEORY, WHICH SAYS THAT GREMLINS LIVE INSIDE THE BRAUN TUBES AND USE MAGIC TO MAKE THE PICTURE SHOW UP...
CANNOT BE DISPROVEN UNTIL WE HAVE INSPECTED THE CONTENTS OF A BRAUN TUBE, DOES IT NOT?
IF WE TOOK APART A TV LATER, I COULD PROVE IT!
THAT BOOK WAS FAKE HOW CAN YOU ASSERT THAT THERE AREN'T GREMLINS INSIDE?
HAVE YOU EVER PEEKED INSIDE A BRAUN TUBE?
HUH..?

IS THAT CAT IN THE BOX ALIVE OR DEAD?
IF YOU OPEN THE BOX, YOU WILL KNOW THE ANSWER
WHICH IS CORRECT YOUR SCIENTIFIC THEORY OR MY MAGIC THEORY? WE CAN DECIDE THAT ONCE WE HAVE PEEKED INSIDE A BRAUN TUBE
BUT UNTIL THE MOMENT WE CONFIRM THAT, NEITHER OF US CAN DISPROVE THE OTHER'S THEORY
IN OTHER WORDS, ALTHOUGH THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUTH, OUR TWO CONTRADICTORY CLAIMS OUR TWO DIFFERENT TRUTHS CAN EXIST AT THE SAME TIME
UNTIL YOU OPEN THE BOX, BOTH EXISTENCES ARE PERMITTED
THE INSIDE OF THE BOX BECOMES A STRANGE PARALLEL UNIVERSE IN WHICH THE LIVE CAT AND THE DEAD CAT OVERLAP AND SIMULTANEOUSLY EXIST.

IN OTHER WORDS, AT A GLANCE, HER CLAIM MAY ALSO APPEAR AS THE TRUTH.
YOU WERE SHOWN THAT AND NOW YOU ARE IN A STATE OF CONFUSION
SO UNTIL WE PEEK INSIDE THE BRAUN TUBE AND OBTAIN A DEFINITE TRUTH, BOTH MY CLAIM AND BEATO'S CLAIM ARE PERMITTED AND NEITHER CLAIM CAN BE DENIED
SO BASICALLY, RIGHT NOW ROKKENJIMA IS LIKE A WORLD FROM JUST BEFORE WE'VE LOOKED INSIDE THE BRAUN TUBE?
BUT STRICTLY SPEAKING, RATHER THAN SLANTING TOWARDS THE WORLD OF THE MAGIC, IT HAS BECOME COMPLETELY IMPARTIAL IN REGARDS TO THE TWO CONTRADICTORY WORLDS THUS BOTH CLAIMS CAN EXIST SIMULTANEOUSLY AS TRUTH.
TO A RESIDENT OF THE WORLD OF SCIENCE SUCH AS YOURSELF, IT MUST FEEL AS THOUGH THIS ISLAND HAS BEEN SUCKED INTO THE WORLD OF MAGIC, PUTTING YOU AT A DISADVANTAGE.
THAT IS EXACTLY HOW ROKKENJIMA IS NOW
RIGHT NOW, THE ISLAND IS A PARALLEL UNIVERSE WHERE BOTH THE SCIENCE THEORY AND THE MAGIC THEORY CAN SIMULTANEOUSLY EXIST
AND THERE, YOU AND BEATRICE ARE LAYING OUT YOUR OPPOSING CLAIMS LIKE A TRIAL.

WHICH MEANS... NO MATTER WHAT SORT OF MAGIC BEATO SHOWS ME, THAT'S A "CLAIM" OF HER "MAGIC THEORY," AND NOT "PROOF"...
SO SHE CAN'T DENY MY CLAIM WITH THAT...?
I SEE
BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE, WE CAN'T FIND OUT WHICH OF US IS RIGHT UNLESS WE PEEK INSIDE THE BRAIN TUBE
WHERE IS THE BRAIN TUBE OF THIS WORLD?
IN A SITUATION WHERE NEITHER OF US CAN DENY THE OTHER'S CLAIM, WHY IS THERE ANY NEED TO DISPUTE IT?
THAT ITSELF IS THE GAME SHE HAS CHALLENGED YOU TO.
THE TWO OF YOU WHO ARE FIGHTING WILL DECIDE THE OUTCOME YOURSELVES

ISN'T IT BECAUSE YOU WERE REFUTED THAT YOU'VE SURRENDERED LIKE THIS?
IN A WORLD WHERE BOTH TRUTHS CAN SIMULTANEOUSLY EXIST
IS IT EVEN POSSIBLE TO REFUTE YOUR OPPONENT'S CLAIM?
FUFUFU
AH, REALLY!
HEHEH
I GET IT
I GAVE UP MY NAME TO THAT GIRL SO I AM CURRENTLY NAMELESS
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEGUN TO UNDERSTAND HOW I SHOULD FIGHT AGAINST BEATO
THANKS FOR THE ADVICE

AS A TEMPORARY NAME, PERHAPS I SHOULD CALL MYSELF "VIRGILIUS" NO, "VIRGILIA."
IT MEANS THE ONE WHO GUIDES THE WAY TO BEATRICE.
IF YOU WISH, I SHALL OCCASIONALLY GIVE YOU ADVICE
CAN'T BELIEVE I'M ACCEPTING HELP FROM A WITCH WHEN I'M TRYING TO DENY WITCHES...
IT'S ALMOST FUNNY
ニヤッ
BUT I GUESS THAT WORKS FINE IN THIS CONTRADICTORY WORLD

I'LL FIGHT COOLLY 'TILL THE END!!
I'M NOT LENDING AN EAR TO HER NONSENSE ANY LONGER!
I'LL TAKE REVENGE FOR YOU, TOO!

O...OHH, BATTLER!! WHERE DID YOU DISAPPEAR OFF TO?!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING. I WENT TO COOL MY HEAD A LITTLE...
AAAND?
DID YOU COME UP WITH AN EXPLANATION FOR THE PLEASANT, THRILLING FANTASY BATTLE BETWEEN ME AND TEACHEEEER??
MILADY BE A BIT MORE DIGNIFIED.
I CAN'T HELP IIIT! AS SOON AS I SEE BATTLER'S FACE, I GET IN SUCH HIGH SPIRIIITS!

THERE "WASN'T" ANY MAGIC BATTLE!
AT THIS MOMENT, THERE ARE NO TOWERS OR SPEARS YOU TWO CREATED LEFT IN THE ROSE GARDEN, OR ANY TRACES OF A MAGIC BATTLE AT ALL!
THE FACT THERE ARE NO TRACES IS PROOF THAT NOTHING HAPPENED! THAT IS MY CLAIM!!
HEY, YOU KNOW BATTLEER?
I OBVIOUSLY CAN'T MAKE A HUGE MESS WHEN IT'S ONLY THE FIRST TWILIGHT, AND I HAPPEN TO LIKE THAT ROSE GARDEN. I FOUGHT WITH A BARRIER PUT UP. IT'S ONLY NATURAL THERE ARE NO TRACES OF THE FIGHT
BUT THAT DOESN'T OBSTRUCT MY CLAIM IN ANY WAY!
BESIDES, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVE THAT MAGIC "DOESN'T EXIST"! IT'S A DEVIL'S PROOF, YOU SEE?
THERE WAS A MAGIC BATTLE, BUT A BARRIER WAS PUT UP SO NO TRACES OF IT WERE LEFT OVER
THERE WAS NO BATTLE!
BOTH THEORIES ARE VALID
RESULT
THE ROSE GARDEN WITH NOTHING IN IT
UNTIL WE LOOK INSIDE THE BRAIN TUBE THE TWO CAN STAND SIDE BY SIDE!
SO THAT'S YOUR "CLAIM"?

FUFUFU
IT'S "SCHRODINGER'S CAT BOX."
IT'S THE MULTILAYERED WORLDS CONTRACTION TECHNIQUE THE POWER OF FINITE MAGIC, THE COUNTER-PART TO ENDLESS MAGIC... IT DISPLAYS THE STRONGEST POWER AGAINST AN ENDLESS WITCH
WH WHAT'S WITH THAT COUNTER...?!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN, MILADY?
IHIHI
I WILL BE TAKING MY PLACE ON THIS SIDE, BEATRICE.
T... TEACHER...!
WHAT AN UNCALLED FOR HINT...!

LET'S MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME!
OKAY, I'LL BE CONFIRMING THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE FIRST TWILIGHT!!
OCTOBER 5TH, 6:00 AM
...IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MORNING AT ALL.
WHAT AWFUL WEATHER. IT'S ALMOST LIKE IT'S REFLECTING OUR CURRENT STATE OF MIND

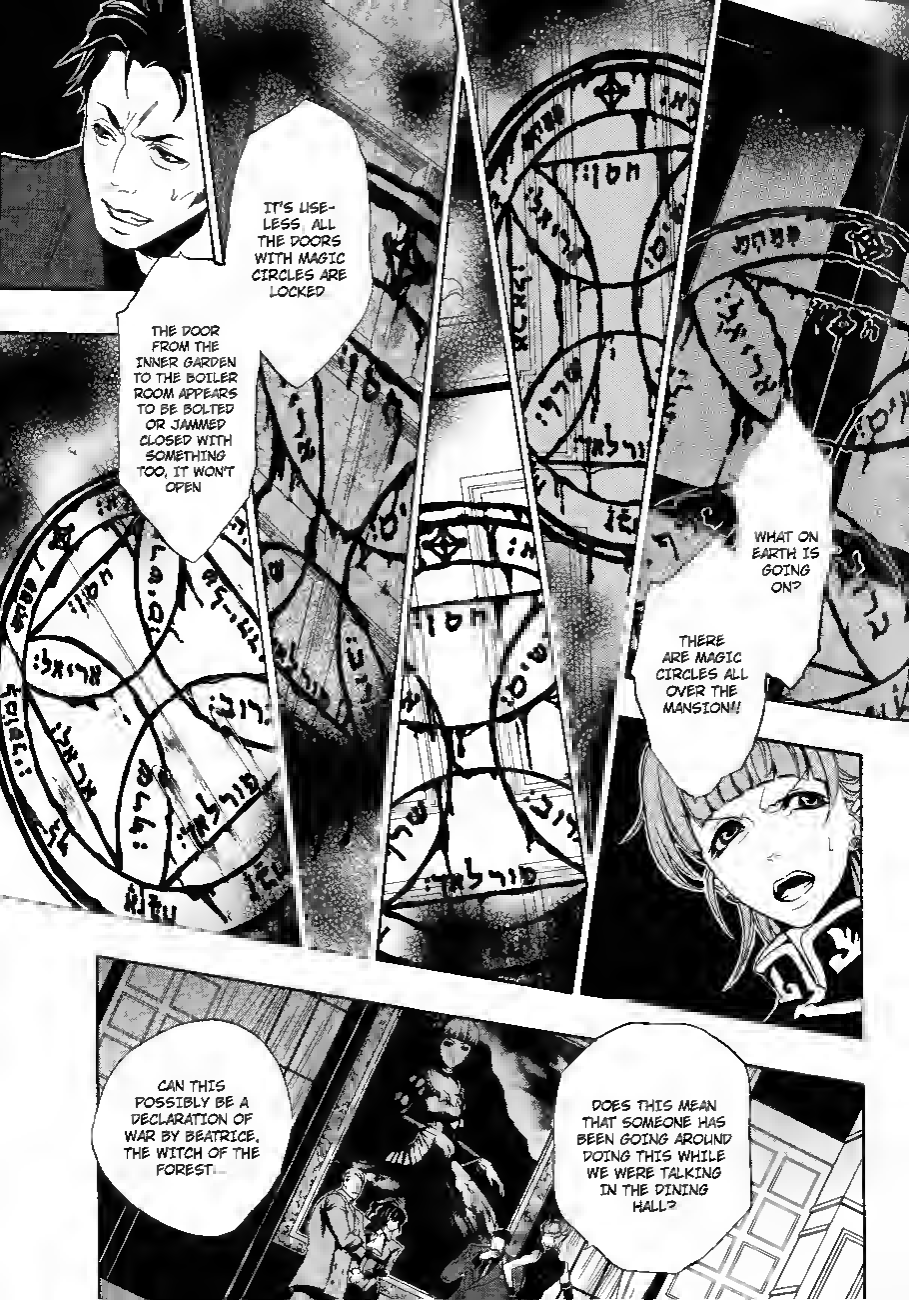
I THINK WE'VE TALKED ENOUGH. WE'VE PROPOSED NEARLY EVERY POSSIBLE COUNTERMEASURE AGAINST THE MYSTERIOUS 19TH PERSON CALLING THEMSELVES BEATRICE
YOU'RE RIGHT... SO LONG AS A TRAITOR DOESN'T POP UP AMONG US SIBLINGS, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH ALMOST ANY SITUATION
...WE ENDED UP STAYING UP ALL NIGHT. I'M SLEEPY
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE A REST AFTER BREAKFAST?
...UGH
LET US HAVE GENJI DEAL WITH IT. HE SHOULD HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED IN THE SERVANTS' ROOM TO START THE MORNING PREPARATIONS
THEN WE'LL GO CHECK OUT THE KITCHEN
I... I WONDER WHAT ON EARTH IT COULD BE...
WHAT'S WITH THIS STENCH...?
I CAN HARDLY STAND IT...

THAT'S ODD.
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE KITCHEN IS THE SOURCE OF THE SMELL
NO ONE'S EVEN HERE YET...
HEY
IT'S COMING FROM THE BASEMENT
IF IT'S IN THE BASE-MENT... THAT MEANS IT'S COMING FROM THE BOILER ROOM?
PLEASE DON'T TELL ME THE BOILER BROKE DOWN OR SOMETHING...
.....!?

GENJI! KANON! SHANNON! ARE YOU THERE?
NA NATSUMI NEE-SAN LOOK AT THIS...
ON THE DOOR TO THE PARLOR...
!!!?

WH...
WHAT IS
THIS...?!

WTDND
GROUP
Translation:
crystalweaver
Cleaning:
Cookie
Typesetting:
Nabiki Asakura
http://wtdnd.wordpress.com/


IT'S USE-LESS. ALL THE DOORS WITH MAGIC CIRCLES ARE LOCKED
THE DOOR FROM THE INNER GARDEN TO THE BOILER ROOM APPEARS TO BE BOLTED OR JAMMED CLOSED WITH SOMETHING TOO. IT WON'T OPEN
WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON?
THERE ARE MAGIC CIRCLES ALL OVER THE MANSION!!
CAN THIS POSSIBLY BE A DECLARATION OF WAR BY BEATRICE, THE WITCH OF THE FOREST...
DOES THIS MEAN THAT SOMEONE HAS BEEN GOING AROUND DOING THIS WHILE WE WERE TALKING IN THE DINING HALL?

DR. NANJOU, HAVEN'T YOU HEARD ANYTHING FROM FATHER? THIS... ISN'T THIS SOME GRAND JOKE OR A GAME SET UP BY FATHER?
I... I HAVE NO IDEA...
THE KIDS IN THE GUESTHOUSE ARE SAFE, ROSA AND KYRIE STAYED BACK TO KEEP AN EYE ON THEM
ONLY THE SERVANTS ARE NOWHERE TO BE FOUND
.. GOOD MORNING. LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING STRANGE HAS HAPPENED...

IS WHOEVER DID THIS TELLING US "DON'T ENTER THE ROOMS"? OR ELSE...
ONLY THE KEYS TO THE ROOMS WITH THE MAGIC CIRCLES HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY
EACH SERVANT HAS ONE OF THE MASTER KEYS...
使用人室
ARE THEY TELLING US "I WANT YOU TO ENTER" BY DELIBERATELY ATTRACTING OUR ATTENTION WITH THE MAGIC CIRCLES?

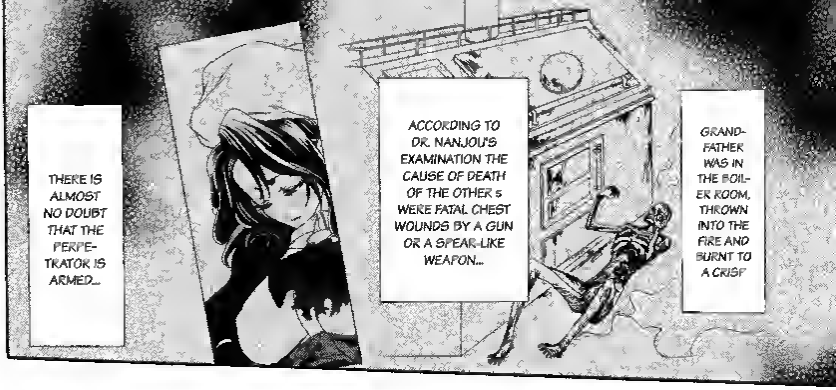
THERE ARE FIVE DOORS WITH MAGIC CIRCLES DRAWN ON THEM.
THE MISSING SERVANTS ARE FIVE ...
LET'S BREAK THE WINDOWS!
WE SHOULD CONFIRM WHAT'S INSIDE
ガチャ
ドンドン
!!

CHAPTER 9: [CONDITIONS FOR VICTORY]

カチ
カチ
カチ
カチ
THE CORPSES OF THE FIVE SERVANTS SHANNON-CHAN, KANON-KUN GENJI-SAN, KUMASAWA-SAN AND GOUDA-SAN, AND THAT OF GRANDFATHER
WERE EACH DISCOVERED IN ONE OF THE MANSION'S AND CHAPEL'S ROOMS MARKED WITH MAGIC CIRCLES.
WHILE WE WERE DREAMING ABOUT THE NEXT ENJOYABLE DAY US COUSINS WERE GOING TO SPEND TOGETHER
6 PEOPLE WERE KILLED...

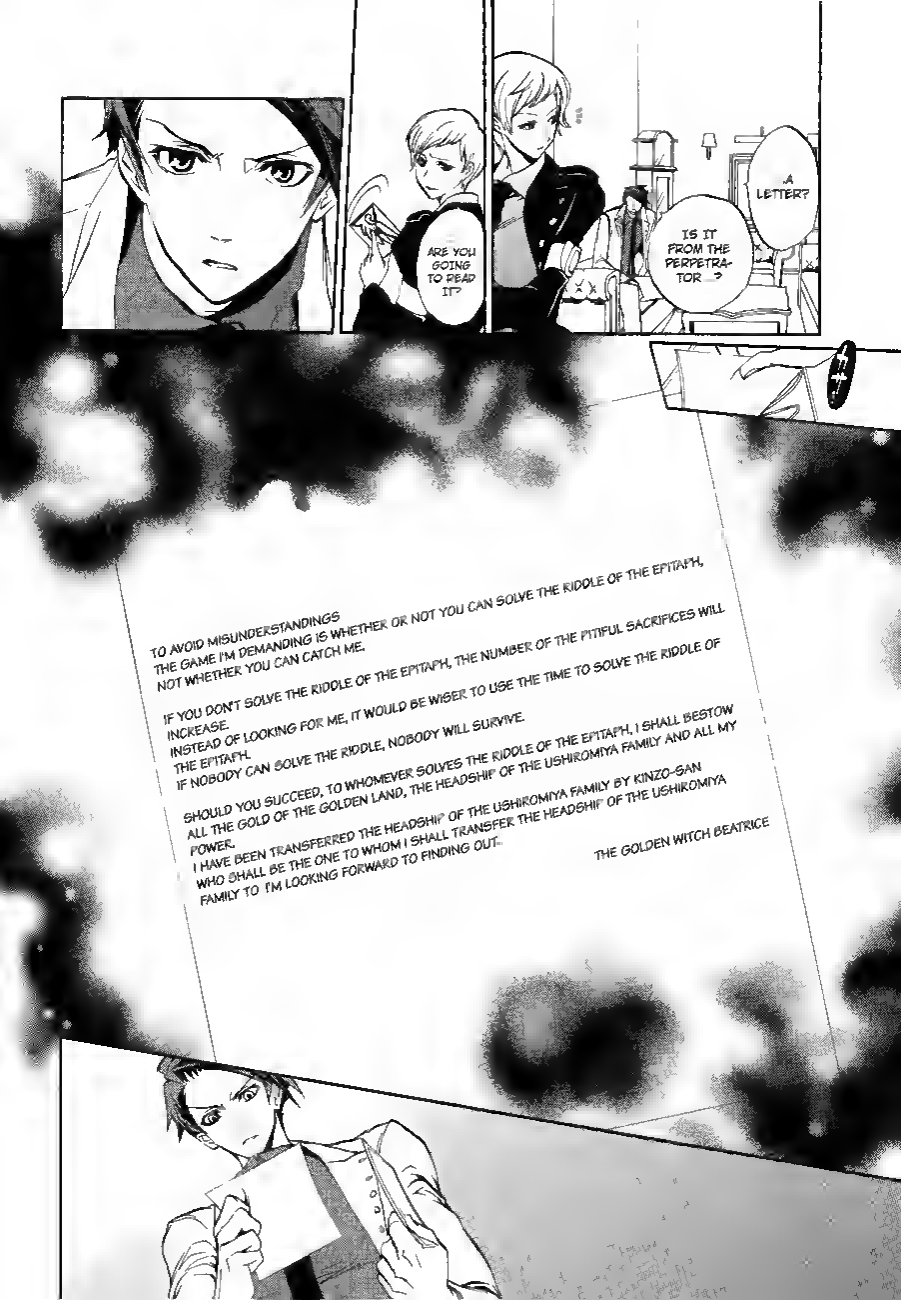
NO
NOOO ...!
I WON'T BELIEVE IT UNTIL I SEE IT WITH MY OWN EYES!!
IT CAN'T BE! KANON-KUN CANNOT BE DEAD!
LET ME MEET KANON-KUN!!
KANON-KUN... KANON-KUN...!!
PLEASE, MOTHER JUST ONE LOOK WILL DO...
ME TOO... LET ME SEE SHANNON ONE LAST TIME...
YOU CAN'T!!
THIS IS A MURDER CASE...!!
UNTIL THE POLICE ARRIVES WE MUST PRESERVE THE CRIME SCENE...!!

THE PHONE LINE APPEARS TO BE OUT OF ORDER SO WE CANNOT CALL RIGHT AWAY
WELL THEN...
HOWEVER WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONTACT THEM VIA THE SHIP THAT ARRIVES TOMORROW MORNING...
WHEN IS THE POLICE...?
WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THE PERPETRATOR WHO KILLED SIX PEOPLE IS LURKING, SO THERE IS NO WAY I'M LETTING YOU WALK AROUND
WE CANNOT LEAVE THIS ISLAND DUE TO THE TYPHOON, THEREFORE THE PERPETRATOR TOO IS STILL ON THE ISLAND
UNTIL THE TYPHOON HAS PASSED AND THE POLICE ARRIVES
WE WILL BE STAYING IN THE GUEST HOUSE.
ACCORDING TO THE WORDS OF THE ADULTS WHO DISCOVERED THE BODIES OF THE SIX...


THERE IS ALMOST NO DOUBT THAT THE PERPETRATOR IS ARMED...
ACCORDING TO DR. NANJOU'S EXAMINATION THE CAUSE OF DEATH OF THE OTHER 5 WERE FATAL CHEST WOUNDS BY A GUN OR A SPEAR-LIKE WEAPON...
GRANDFATHER WAS IN THE BOILER ROOM, THROWN INTO THE FIRE AND BURNT TO A CRISP

WHAT IS THIS?
THE WINCHESTER RIFLE FROM THE OLD MAN'S COLLECTION.
IT'S BEEN CUSTOM-MADE INTO A SHORT-BARRELED ONE BUT IT CAN FIRE REAL BULLETS PROPERLY
LET'S EACH OF US SIBLINGS TAKE ONE OF THOSE

WHEN I'M TOUCHING THIS, EVEN NOW IT FEELS LIKE THE OLD MAN WILL HIT ME YELLING "DON'T TOUCH!"
カチ
カチ
ISN'T IT FINE THEN ...
THERE WILL BE NO MORE HITTING.
HM
WAS THAT REALLY FATHER, I WONDER
IT'S JUST THAT IF HE WAS COMPLETELY BURNT WE CANNOT TELL WHETHER IT'S REALLY HIM OR NOT...
COULDN'T HE HAVE BEEN SWAPPED WITH SOMEONE ELSE'S CORPSE?
NO, THAT WAS FATHER. YOU SAW THAT THERE WERE 6 TOES ON EACH FOOT, RIGHT?
BUT I'VE HEARD THAT POLYDACTYLY IS NOT UNCOMMON
SINCE THIS IS ABOUT FATHER, WHO LIKED GRAND DESIGN, COULDN'T HE HAVE ARRANGED FOR A CORPSE WITH THE SAME NUMBER OF TOES...
ARE YOU SAYING THE LETTER THAT WAS LYING NEXT TO THE BODY IS FROM A PERPETRATOR WHO CONSPIRED TOGETHER WITH FATHER?


ARE YOU GOING TO READ IT?
A LETTER?
IS IT FROM THE PERPETRATOR...?
TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS
THE GAME I'M DEMANDING IS WHETHER OR NOT YOU CAN SOLVE THE RIDDLE OF THE EPITAPH,
NOT WHETHER YOU CAN CATCH ME.
IF YOU DON'T SOLVE THE RIDDLE OF THE EPITAPH, THE NUMBER OF THE PITIFUL SACRIFICES WILL INCREASE.
INSTEAD OF LOOKING FOR ME, IT WOULD BE WISER TO USE THE TIME TO SOLVE THE RIDDLE OF THE EPITAPH.
IF NOBODY CAN SOLVE THE RIDDLE, NOBODY WILL SURVIVE.
SHOULD YOU SUCCEED, TO WHOMEVER SOLVES THE RIDDLE OF THE EPITAPH, I SHALL BESTOW ALL THE GOLD OF THE GOLDEN LAND, THE HEADSHIP OF THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY AND ALL MY POWER.
I HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED THE HEADSHIP OF THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY BY KINZO-SAN
WHO SHALL BE THE ONE TO WHOM I SHALL TRANSFER THE HEADSHIP OF THE USHIROMIYA FAMILY TO. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO FINDING OUT.
THE GOLDEN WITCH BEATRICE

SO ...
SHE'S SAYING IF NOBODY SOLVES THE EPITAPH, THIS WILL BE A MASSACRE GAME OF MURDERING THE WHOLE FAMILY...
YOU MUST BE KIDDING!! DAMN IT...!!!
BAT-TLER
I'M GOING TO TEACH YOU TOO HOW TO USE A GUN
IF IT COMES TO THE WORST AND THERE ARE SPARE GUNS, YOU NEED TO BE PREPARED
IF THERE ARE SPARE GUNS..

THIS CAN'T BE!
...
RIGHT
THIS TIME TOO... 6 PEOPLE WERE KILLED DURING THE FIRST NIGHT?
WHAT'S MORE... THIS TIME IT'S BEEN GRANDFATHER AND ALL THE SERVANTS!
IT CAN BE SAID THAT THE SERVANTS, WHO HAD THE MASTER KEYS, WERE THE MOST SUSPICIOUS IN THE PREVIOUS TWO GAMES.
THEREFORE THAT CHILD WENT STRAIGHT FOR THEM THIS TIME.

BEATO ALREADY DECLARED IN RED THAT THERE ARE NO MORE THAN 18 PEOPLE ON THIS ISLAND.
SO I CAN NO LONGER AVOID SUSPECTING ONE OF THE 18 PEOPLE.
BY ALREADY TAKING ALL THE 18 PEOPLE'S PIECES, SHE'S MAKING YOU FEEL LIKE SURRENDERING TO HER AS WITCH WHO ORCHESTRATED THIS
HOWEVER, WHATEVER THAT CHILD SAYS OR SHOWS TO YOU,
IT CANNOT ENDANGER THE TRUTH YOU BELIEVE IN...
...DON'T FORGET THIS.
YEAH, THANKS VIRGILIA
SO THE SAME METHOD IS GOING TO WORK NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES.

NOW LET'S START OUR BATTLE OF WORDS, BEATO!! IT'S THE FIRST NIGHT!!
K~ KUKU KUKU
LET'S SEE HOW CLOSE TO ME YOU CAN GET WITH MASTER AS AN AUXILIARY WHEEL FOR YOUR TODDLER STEPS
LET'S START BY RECONSTRUCTING THE SCENE OF THE CRIME!
VIRGILIA, PLEASE!
THE FIRST DISCOVERED BODY WAS THAT OF SHANNON
SHE WAS DISCOVERED IN THE GUEST ROOM ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE MANSION.
THE DOOR AND THE WINDOWS WERE LOCKED CONSTRUCTING A CLOSED ROOM
I DEMAND THAT BEATO CONFIRMS ONCE AGAIN THE DEFINITION OF A CLOSED ROOM

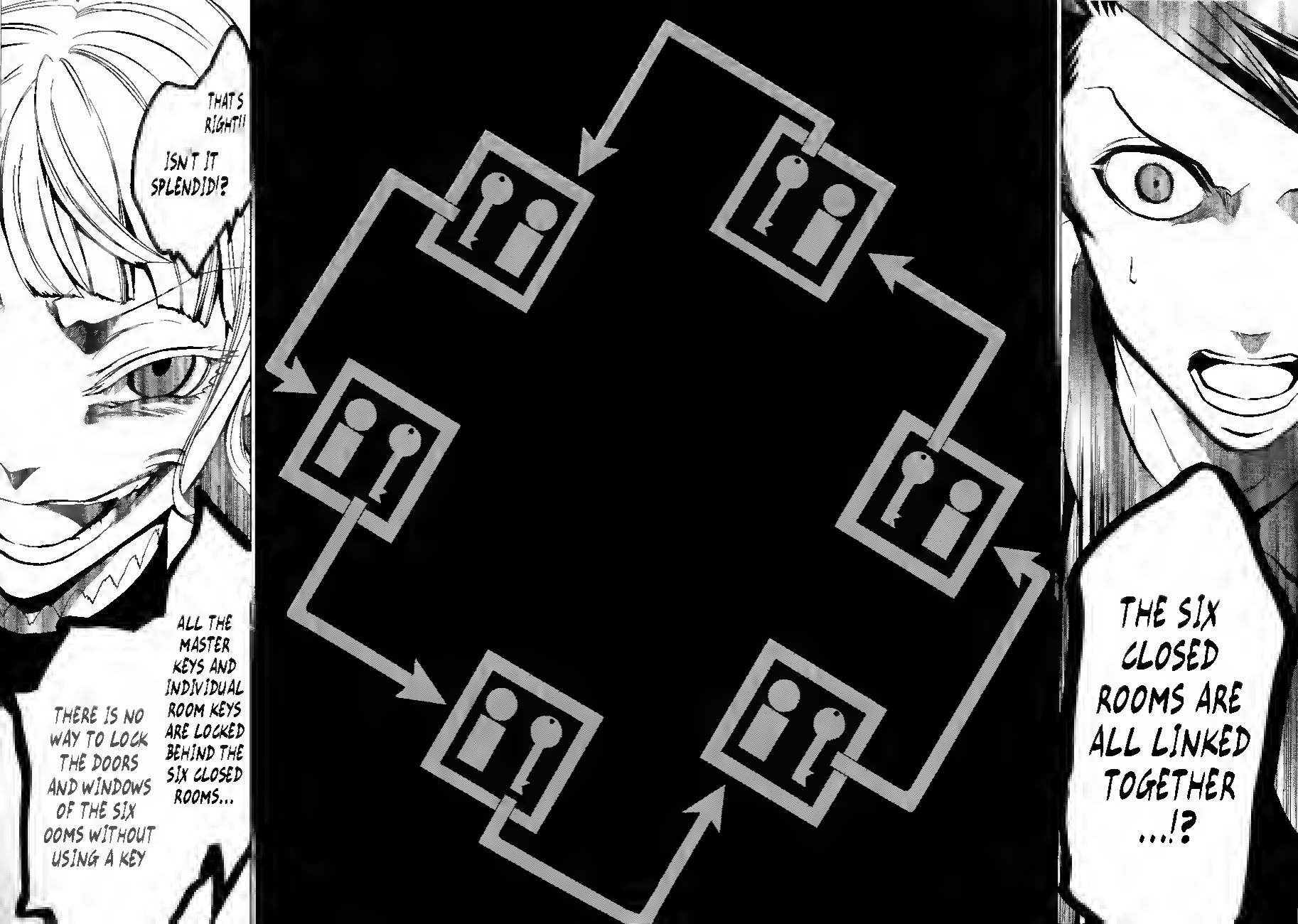
ELABORATE CONCRETELY ON THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF INTERFERENCE FROM THE OUTSIDE
CONFIRMATION OF DETAILS
A CLOSED ROOM IS "AN INTERIOR WHERE ALL WAYS IN AND OUT HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY CUT OFF"
THERE ARE NO HIDDEN DOORS. NOBODY CAN COME IN FROM THE OUTSIDE, INCLUDING NO POSSIBILITY FOR INTERFERENCE FROM THE OUTSIDE.
IT MEANS ONE CAN'T INTERFERE DIRECTLY FROM THE OUTSIDE WITH SOMETHING LIKE A STRING OR A STICK
THE DOORS AND WINDOWS DON'T HAVE CRACKS FOR SUCH CHEAP TRICKS
INTERFERENCE WITH A REMOTELY CONTROLLED DEVICE LIKE A REMOTE OR OTHER MECHANISMS CONNECTED BY RADIO WAVES OR THE TELEPHONE IS ALSO IMPOSSIBLE
INTERFERENCE BY WHATEVER DIRECT OR INDIRECT MEANS TO THE INSIDE OF THE CLOSED ROOM IS IMPOSSIBLE!
WHAT ABOUT VOICES AND KNOCKING?
EVEN IF IT'S A CLOSED ROOM, CALLING SOMEONE OR KNOCKING IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE. DECISIONS BASED ON MUTUALLY WILLING COMMUNICATION DON'T CONTRADICT THE DEFINITION OF A CLOSED ROOM.

BEATRICE'S CLOSED ROOM DEFINITION
THEREAFTER THIS DEFINITION IS CALLED "BEATRICE'S CLOSED ROOM DEFINITION"
INTERFERENCE BY VOICE OR KNOCKING: POSSIBLE
ALL THE DOORS AND WINDOWS ARE LOCKED
INTERFERENCE TO THE INSIDE BY USING TOOLS: IMPOSSIBLE
INDIRECT INTERFERENCE BY REMOTE OR OTHER RADIO WAVE DEVICES: IMPOSSIBLE
THERE ARE NO HIDDEN DOORS
OK, UNDERSTOOD.
YEP.
...SO, SHANNON-CHAN'S CLOSED ROOM FULFILLS THESE CONDITIONS?
FURTHER THERE WAS AN ENVELOPE WITH A CREST NEXT TO SHANNON'S CORPSE THERE WAS NO LETTER IN IT BUT THE KEY TO THE GUEST ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR WAS INSIDE
THE FAMILY, WHO DISCOVERED HER, RETRIEVED IT
THERE WAS ONE MASTER KEY ON SHANNON'S CORPSE
NOTE, IT SAYS "A WESTERN-STYLE ENVELOPE". JAPANESE ONES OPEN AT THE NARROW SIDE. BUT, I'M LEAVING IT AS "JUST ENVELOPE". BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT MOST PEOPLE ASSOCIATE WITH "AN ENVELOPE" ANYWAY.

THE KEY OPENS THE GUEST ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR ON WHICH A MAGIC CIRCLE WAS PAINTED.
INSIDE THE BODY OF KUMASAWA WAS DISCOVERED
THE INTERIOR IS A CLOSED ROOM THAT FOLLOWS "BEATRICE'S CLOSED ROOM DEFINITION".
KUMASAWA HAD ONE MASTER KEY ON HER, THE FAMILY RETRIEVED IT.
SIMILAR TO SHANNON, NEXT TO THE BODY WAS AN ENVELOPE. INSIDE THE KEY TO THE WAITING ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR WAS DISCOVERED.
THE FAMILY WENT TO THE WAITING ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR.
INSIDE OF THE WAITING ROOM ON THE 3RD FLOOR, WHICH WAS LOCKED AND HAD A MAGIC CIRCLE PAINTED, GOLDA'S BODY WAS DISCOVERED
THE INTERIOR IS A CLOSED ROOM THAT FOLLOWS "BEATRICE'S CLOSED ROOM EFINITION"
GOLDA TOO HAD ONE MASTER KEY ON HIM, THE FAMILY RETRIEVED THAT
IN THE ENVELOPE LYING BY, THE KEY TO THE ROOM FOR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS ON THE SECOND FLOOR WAS DISCOVERED THE FAMILY WENT TO THE ROOM FOR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS ON THE SECOND FLOOR
...
...?

IN THE SIMILAR ENVELOPE WAS DISCOVERED THE KEY TO THE BOILER ROOM IN THE BASEMENT
ONE MASTER KEY WAS RETRIEVED
IN THE ROOM FOR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS SIMILARLY A CLOSED ROOM WITH A MAGIC CIRCLE PAINTED. GENJI'S BODY WAS DISCOVERED
WHAT IS THIS...
IT CAN'T POSSIBLY CONTINUE LIKE THIS..?
IN THE ENVELOPE WAS ALSO A LETTER AS IT HAS ALREADY BEEN CONFIRMED. THE CONTENT OF THE LETTER IS A REPEATED DEMAND TO SOLVE THE EPITAPH'S RIDDLE
IN THAT SAME BOILER ROOM IN THE BASEMENT KINZO'S BODY WAS DISCOVERED
IN AN ENVELOPE LIKE THE OTHERS THE KEY TO THE CHAPEL WAS FOUND
ﾌﾌ...

WITH THIS THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE BODIES OF THE SIX IS COMPLETED.
IN THE SAME KIND OF ENVELOPE THE KEY TO THE GUEST ROOM ON THE FIRST FLOOR WAS DISCOVERED
IN THE CHAPEL WHICH WAS IN THE SAME CONDITION, KANON'S BODY WAS FOUND
ONE MASTER KEY WAS RETRIEVED.
...
AT THE PLACE KANON WAS, WHO WAS DISCOVERED LAST, WAS THE KEY TO THE GUEST ROOM WHERE SHANNON THE FIRST ONE TO BE DISCOVERED, WAS—
HUH...?
...
THIS
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
DID YOU NOTICE IT, BAAAAAATTLER?


THAT'S RIGHT!!
ISN'T IT SPLENDID!?
THERE IS NO WAY TO LOCK THE DOORS AND WINDOWS OF THE SIX OOMS WITHOUT USING A KEY
ALL THE MASTER KEYS AND INDIVIDUAL ROOM KEYS ARE LOCKED BEHIND THE SIX CLOSED ROOMS...
THE SIX CLOSED ROOMS ARE ALL LINKED TOGETHER ...!?

LINKED TOGETHER CLOSED ROOMS, HUH...?
HOW CRAFTY
WHAT DO YOU SAY, BATTLER! WHAT'S YOUR MOVE GOING TO BE?
IF YOU CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING, SHOULD I SHOW YOU HOW I PULLED IT OFF WITH SOME HOCUS-POCUS MAGIC?
MILADY, YOUR MANNERS ARE UNBECOMING
OOPS!
!
DO AS YOU LIKE
HE MAY RESPECTFULLY LISTEN TO YOUR ASSERTED "MAGIC EXPLANATION"
BUT AS FOR ME! I WILL STICK TO MY "HUMAN EXPLANATION"!! WITHOUT BEING INFLUENCED ONE BIT BY YOUR ASSERTION, I CAN ASSERT MY OWN!!!

VIRGILIA!! RECONSTRUCT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME! I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR CRACKS IN IT!
UNDER-STOOD.
ARE ALL SIX PEOPLE DEAD?
IF SOMEONE IS PRETENDING TO BE DEAD AND THEY JUST LOCK THE DOOR FROM THE INSIDE, THIS ISN'T A CLOSED ROOM MURDER AT ALL!!
NANJOU CONFIRMED THE DEATH OF ALL SIX
HOWEVER WITH THE "DEVIL'S PROOF" IT IS IMPOS-SIBLE TO DENY THE PROBABILITY OF A FALSE DIAGNOSIS
THAT IS TO SAY, WE CANNOT SAY THAT THE POSSIBI-LITY THAT NANJOU OVERLOOKED THAT SOMEONE WAS STILL ALIVE IS AT ZERO.
WITHOUT INTERVENTION BY THE POLICE AT THE CRIME SCENE PEOPLE'S INSPECTIONS ARE LIMITED

"ALL SIX VICTIMS ARE DEAD"!!
THAT'S IT! I DEMAND A REPEAT!
IN ORDER TO GET A STRICT CONFIRMATION OF THE DEATHS, I RECOMMEND YOU DEMAND A REPEAT
KINZO, GENJI, SHANNON, KANON, GOUDA AND KUMASAWA, THE SIX ARE DEAD
OKAY.
THERE IS NO SEVENTH PERSON IN THE LINKED CLOSED ROOMS
...OKAY
WITH THIS WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT WE ARE LIMITED TO SIX PEOPLE
AND NOBODY IS PLAYING DEAD
...IF THAT IS SO
THE SIX ARE DEAD
MOVING ON WITH THE DEMAND FOR REPEAT!
NOBODY IS HIDING IN THE SIX ROOMS!
NOBODY IS HIDING IN THE SIX ROOMS

"THE SIX PEOPLE DIED INSTANTLY"!
...OH
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THE DYING VICTIMS LOCKED THEMSELVES IN THE ROOMS FROM THE INSIDE IN ORDER TO ESCAPE FROM THE MURDERER
ALL DIED INSTANTLY!
INSTANT DEATH, IN OTHER WORDS MEANING THAT ONCE THEY WERE HIT, THEY IMMEDIATELY BECAME UNABLE TO ACT
THAT MEANS THERE IS ALSO A POSSIBILITY THAT AFTER THEY STOPPED BREATHING THE CLOSED ROOMS WERE CONSTRUCTED UNINTENTIONALLY
IN THE FULL MEANING OF THE WORD. IT MIGHT HAVE TAKEN A COUPLE OF MINUTES BUT
DOING ANYTHING BY THEIR OWN WILL WAS COMPLETELY IMPOSSIBLE!
...IT'S A CLOSED ROOM MURDER CLASSIC.
THAT'S ALRIGHT. I'M GOING TO CRUSH IT.

...
KUKU KUKU
ONLY THE VICTIMS WERE IN THE CLOSED ROOMS AND WHAT'S MORE, THEY DIED INSTANTLY.
IF THAT'S NOT A MAGIC MURDER, WHAT IS IT THEN, BATTLER?
NOT QUITE. HOW IS "A MURDER HAS OCCURRED" LIKE "A MAKE-BELIEVE CLOSED ROOM MURDER SHAM"!
IF THE PERPETRATOR WASN'T INSIDE, THEN HE WAS OUTSIDE! HE KILLED THEM FROM THE OUTSIDE ON WAY OR ANOTHER!
HOWEVER BATTLER-SAMA
ACCORDING TO MILADY'S CLOSED ROOM DEFINITION A MURDER FROM A DISTANCE ON THE OUTSIDE HAS BEEN DENIED. RIGHT?
EVEN WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM THE OUTSIDE A MURDER FROM A DISTANCE IS POSSIBLE
THAT'S RIGHT... A TRAP!!

THERE WAS NOTHING SUSPICIOUS DISCOVERED IN ANY OF THE ROOMS?
ON TOP OF THAT WHAT WAS THIS TRAP LIKE? WHERE WAS IT HIDDEN? HOW DID IT WORK?
LET'S SEE YOU EXPLAIN-ING THIS FOR EACH OF THE SIX ROOMS!
WELL?
YOU CAN'T!?
YEAH WELL, I CAN'T
FOR EXAMPLE INSTRUCTING THE VICTIMS TO GO INTO AND LOCK FROM THE INSIDE THE ROOMS THAT HAD BEEN DECIDED ON IN ADVANCE
ACTIVATION OF THE TRAP
THEN INSIDE THEY WERE KILLED WITH A TRAP THEY DIDN'T KNOW WAS SET UP!!
KUHHA HAHAHA HA!!
WHAT KIND OF GUESSWORK IS THAT!?
THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM. IT IS CON-SISTENT WITH THE CURRENT SITUATION

...TSK...
THE SIX PEOPLE WERE NOT KILLED WITH A TRAP!
AH— I'LL DESTROY THIS CHECK WITH A RED TRUTH!
THA THAT IS
WHAT IS THE DEFI-NITION OF A TRAP?
SOMETHING IN WHICH THE VICTIMS CAN BE TRICKED TO ACTIVATE
NO MATTER WHETHER IT'S ACTIVATED WITH A REMOTE A TIMER OR WHAT-EVER, ALL SUCH THINGS!
CONSEQUENTLY, A MAGIC MURDER COMMITED BY A WITCH IS NOT NEEDED!
WITH A MURDER TRAP X THAT CANNOT BE FOUND THIS CLOSED ROOM MURDER CAN BE EXPLAINED WITH A HUMAN PERPETRATOR.
EVEN IF I CAN'T EXPLAIN WHAT THE TRAP LOOKS LIKE, THAT DOESN'T WEAKEN MY ASSERTION!!
I DON'T HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO EXPLAIN THIS.
I REFUSE TO RE-FUTE!
CHECK
WHA. WHAAAT!!?
THIS CAN'T BE
IT SEEMS HE'S BECOME QUITE SKILLED IN MA-DAME S WAYS.
NOT BEING ABLE TO FIND THE TRAP OR TO EXPLAIN WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE CANNOT BE A REASON TO REFUTE THE TRAP.
BATTLER-SAMA IS EMPLOY-ING THE "DEVIL'S PROOF"

I THINK WE CAN GO WITH "ALL CONTRAPTIONS THAT CAN ACCOMPLISH A MURDER WITHOUT THE ONE WHO SET THEM UP DIRECTLY PARTICIPATING"
THERE, THERE, THAT'S IT!
HOW DO YOU LIKE MY COUNTER ATTACK, BATTLER!
DO YOU THINK A HUMAN CAN DESTROY THESE CLOSED ROOMS!?
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN REFUTE ME_!?
...
gulp
gulp
gulp
haa
haa

WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOU STARING?
IS A WITCH DRINKING BLACK TEA SUCH A RARE SIGHT?
YOU TOO... ARE DESPERATE...
WHAT—?
UP TO NOW I THOUGHT I WAS BEING JUST SINGLE-SIDEDLY TOYED WITH BY YOU
—BUT THAT'S NOT IT
YOU TOO DESPERATELY FIGHT AGAINST MY COUNTER ATTACKS
FIGHTING TO SHOW YOUR OWN EXISTENCE
EVEN IF IT'S A TORTURE FOR ME,
ISN'T IT MORE SO FOR YOU?

THIS IS A BATTLE ON EQUAL TERMS
BETWEEN ME AND YOU...

ガチャ!
SIX PEOPLE INSTANTLY DYING IN CLOSED ROOMS, WITH NO OUTSIDER INSIDE
WITHOUT A TRAP THAT CAN BE MEDDLED WITH FROM THE OUTSIDE ...
THIS CANNOT BE ANYTHING BUT A MAGIC MURDER, RIGHT?
IF THIS WERE THE OLD ME, I WOULD PROBABLY SURRENDER AT THIS POINT

I'M GOING TO FLIP THE CHESSBOARD!!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY NOW !!
IF AFTER GOING AROUND KILLING FIVE PEOPLE, THE PERPETRATOR LASTLY ENTERED A ROOM ON THEIR OWN, LOCKED UP, AND COMMITTED SUICIDE, THESE CHAINED CLOSED ROOMS ARE FORMED!!!
WHAT IF WE BREAK DOWN THE SIX PEOPLE INTO FIVE VICTIMS AND A PERPETRATOR ...
WHAT—!?
IT'S "HOW DID IT BECOME A CLOSED ROOM AFTER THEY DIED"!!
IN OTHER WORDS
IT'S NOT "HOW DID THEY MANAGE TO KILL FROM THE OUTSIDE"
AAH, THIS IS NO GOOD. NO GOOD AT ALL

YOU ARE UP AGAINST A WALL. IF THERE IS SOMETHING YOU CAN SAY, GO AHEAD AND SAY IT.
FOR EXAMPLE, "GRANDFATHER, WHO WAS TOLD HE ONLY HAD LITTLE LEFT TO LIVE, DIDN'T HOLD HIS LAST MOMENTS DEAR AND TURNED HIS OWN DEATH INTO A MESSAGE" OR "ONE OF THE SERVANTS DID IT BY GRANDFATHER'S ORDER". SUCH MOTIVATION ISN'T IMPOSSIBLE.
"THE PERPETRATOR COMMITTED SUICIDE WITH AN UNDISCLOSED MOTIVATION X" IS ALSO A SUFFICIENTLY EXPLICABLE POSSIBILITY!
THE EXPLANATION IS A BIT FORCED BUT UNTIL IT'S BEEN DISPROVEN WITH RED TRUTH, HE IS ALLOWED SUCH ASSERTION.
EXACTLY BECAUSE THIS IS A GAME OF CHESS AGAINST A WITCH, THIS POWERFUL MOVE CAN BE USED.
THIS CAN'T BE...
GOING AS FAR AS TO DESECRATE THE DIGNITY OF THE DEAD TO PRODUCE A PERPETRATOR
REPEAT!
"THE SIX PEOPLE WERE ALL MURDERED"!!
UGH
GH... OOH

SOMETHING WRONG? THE SIX WERE MURDERED, RIGHT?
ISN'T THIS A RATHER BASIC PREMISE TO CONFIRM?
UGH
I
I REFUSE TO REPEAT
NO REAL REASON
ISN'T A REFUSAL THE SAME AS A RESIGN AT THIS POINT?
CHECKMATE!
THE PERPETRATOR WAS AMONG THE SIX AND COMMITTED SUICIDE AFTER CONSTRUCTING THE CLOSED ROOMS! THAT'S IT!
WAIT! I'LL SAY IT IN RED!
NONE OF THE SIX COMMITTED SUICIDE.
YOU ALTERED THE LINE YOU WERE ASKED YOU TO REPEAT. DON'T TRY TO FOOL US
AH!
...?
...WHAT IS IT? YOU CAN'T SAY IT?

NONE OF THE SIX DIED BY ACCI
I'LL BEAT THIS STUPID CHECKMATE INTO OBLIVION AS MANY TIMES AS IT TAKES WITH MY RED TRUTH!!
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN CORNER ME LIKE THIS! DO YOU THINK I WOULD RESIGN!
NNNGH DAMN YOU
HE DIED IN AN UNPLANNED ACCIDENT AND INVOLUNTARILY TURNED THIS INTO A CLOSED ROOM MURDER!!!
THIS IS THE TRUTH OF THE FIRST NIGHT. CHECKMATE!!!!
WHEN AN ACCIDENT OCCURRED!!!
AFTER THAT HIS INTENTIONS WERE SOMETHING LIKE RUNNING AWAY OR HIDING.
THE PERPETRATOR X LURKING AMONG THE SIX CONSTRUCTED THE CLOSED ROOMS AFTER KILLING THE OTHER FIVE!
...GH!
AAAAH, I GET IT. SO THIS WAS THE TRUTH
INSTEAD OF SAYING "THE SIX WERE ALL MURDERED", BEATO CHANGED IT TO "NONE OF THE SIX COMMITTED SUICIDE"...!
DOES THAT MEAN THERE ARE PEOPLE AMONG THEM WHO WERE NEITHER KILLED NOR COMMITTED SUICIDE...!!!

LIMPF
!
PHAT FAIR YOU DOING?
MFF
MFF FET FO!
PLEASE EXCUSE THIS DELAY ON OUR PART
AH
YEAH
EXCUSE US
WE WISH FOR A STRATEGIC TIME OUT THIS TURN

THIS WAY, MI-LADY.
PLEASE CALMLY COUNT TO HUNDRED IN YOUR HEAD.
RONOVE IS GIVING THAT CHILD TIME TO COOL DOWN...
BECAUSE ALL THE BLOOD WENT TO HER HEAD
That child has always had a quick temper...
THAT CHILD READILY SACRIFICED SOME MAJOR PIECES TO REFUTE YOUR CHECK JUST FOR THE SAKE OF IT
IN THIS WAR THE FIRST NIGHT IS JUST A PRELI-MINARY SKIRMISH ANYWAY. THAT CHILD MISTOOK THE TIME TO RETREAT
...SO
IN THE END MY CHECK WAS VALID?
Tsk...
...A DEMONIC BUTLER INDEED...

IF THAT CHILD HAD SPOKEN IN RED, THE CHECK WOULDN'T HAVE HELD
BUT IN A LOSING BATTLE IT'S IMPORTANT TO RETREAT AND THAT CHILD WILL LIKELY STRATEGICALLY ADMIT DEFEAT HERE IN ORDER TO PREVENT FUTURE LOSSES...
SO JUST ONE STEP FURTHER WOULD HAVE MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO RETREAT...
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT, BATTLER-SAMA
...I CAME TO RESIGN
I CONCEDE THE VICTORY OF THE FIRST NIGHT TO YOU
LIKE PREDICTED
EVEN IF YOU RESIGNED, IN THE END WE COULDN'T DISPROVE EACH OTHER'S EXPLANATIONS. I GUESS THAT MAKES US EVEN
I THINK WE CAN CALL THIS A TIE

I DON'T NEED YOUR SYMPATHY
ARE YOU THE KIND OF PERSON WHO KICKS OTHERS WHEN THEY ARE LOW?
I'M NOT UNLIKE YOURSELF
AH!
again?
MY, MY
WHAT A DIFFICULT MASTER

…
Why done it
EVEN IF I COULD DEVELOP A HYPOTHESIS WITH A FANCY X IN THE BATTLE WITH THE WITCH BY EMPLOYING THE "DEVIL'S PROOF"
REALISTICALLY I HAVE NO IDEA ABOUT THE "WHO", "WHY" AND "HOW" OF THE CRIME IN THESE LINKED CLOSED ROOMS
How done it
Who done it
EVEN IF I WON FOR THE TIME BEING...
MY EXPLANATION WAS FULL OF HOLES...

...OR ELSE
IF THE PERPETRATOR IS AMONG THE SIX AS BY MY HYPOTHESIS, IS THE CRIME FINISHED WITH THIS...
IS THE PERPETRATOR AMONG THE TWELVE IN THE GUEST HOUSE...?

uu
uuuuuuuu
uuuuu
uuuuu
OH? WHAT IS BORING YOU, BEATRICE?
IT SEEMS MADAME'S FRIENDLY VERBAL EXCHANGE WITH BATTLER-SAMA AND HAVING A CLEVER CONVERSATION IS NOT ENOUGH
BORING.

NOOOT REALL-YYY NOT REALLY NOT REALL-YYYY
IT'S QUITE ENOUGH THAT WORTHLESS BATTLER FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO MY LEVEL
YOU DON'T SOUND ENTHUSIASTIC
イライラ
AREN'T YOU A BIT TOO FRIENDLY WITH BATTLER?
SHOULDN'T OLD PEOPLE STAY ASIDE WHEN THE KIDS ARE PLAYING?
ほほほ…
MILADY, IN SUCH CASES IT IS CUSTOMARY TO START BY ASKING ABOUT ONE'S HOBBIES
SEEMS I'M IN THE WAY
I'LL EXCUSE MYSELF
…

IF ANYTHING, SAYING IN RED "THERE ARE NO MORE THAN 18 PEOPLE ON THIS ISLAND" IS HOW HE CAUGHT UP
UP UNTIL NOW BATTLER HAD ONLY TWO OBJECTIVES, TO DENY WITCHES AND TO SOLVE THE CASE WITHOUT SUSPECTING ANY OF THE 18 PEOPLE
GETTING CAUGHT BETWEEN THESE TWO WAS WHEN HE WAS AT HIS WEAKEST
YOU ALSO ATTACKED A LOT THERE
AS EXPECTED, HUH
I THOUGHT IT WAS A BIT TOO EARLY BUT
BUT WHEN IT WAS SAID IN RED THAT THERE WERE NO MORE THAN 18 PEOPLE,
BATTLER-KUN STARTED BECOMING PREPARED TO NOT BE ABLE TO KEEP FROM SUSPECTING THE 18
INDEED
THIS TIME TO YOU IT SEEMS TO HAVE BECOME A MUCH MORE DIFFICULT GAME
UUUUU I WONDER IF I GOT TOO CARELESS BECAUSE LAST TIME WAS SUCH A COMPLETE VICTORY

GIVE ME A HINT...
MAAAASTER
I MIGHT BE SUPPORTING BATTLER-KUN A BIT TOO MUCH FOR THIS TO BE A FAIR GAME
...BUT JUST A HINT, OK?
YAHOO! AS EXPECTED FROM MASTER!
BOOOOO GIVING BATTLER HINTS ALL THE TIME IS UNFAIR, UNFAIR, UNFAIR!
I CAN'T DO THAT. I'M BATTLER'S ALLY NOW
GIVE ME SOME HINT THAT WILL ARGUE DOWN BATTLER TOO
OF COURSE
THAT'S THE TALE ABOUT THE NORTH WIND AND THE SUN HAVING A MATCH TO STEAL A TRAVELER'S CAPE, RIGHT?
DO YOU KNOW AESOP'S FABLE "THE NORTH WIND AND THE SUN"?

IT MEANS THAT ROUGH AND HASTY METHODS ARE NOT NECESSARILY ALWAYS THE BEST CHOICE
EVEN WITHOUT YOU TELLING ME THAT I REGRET FOCUSING TOO MUCH ON THE VICTORY
AND THEN, BEATRICE, DO YOU PROPERLY UNDERSTAND THE CONDITIONS FOR YOUR VICTORY?
YEP! IT'S TO MAKE BATTLER SURRENDER!
LOOK, YOU ALREADY MADE A MISTAKE
ISN'T THE CONDITION FOR YOU WINNING TO HAVE BATTLER ADMIT YOUR EXISTENCE?
WHAT! ARE YOU SAYING I SHOULD FLATTER BATTLER AND BEG HIM TO RECOGNIZE ME AS A WITCH?
ACCEPTING IS UP TO YOU

I GAVE YOU THE HINT
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO THINK WELL
IN ANY CASE BATTLER'S MOVES THUS FAR DON'T HOLD. A SUITABLE STRATEGIC TURNING POINT IS NECESSARY
NORTH WIND AND SUN AND WHAT NOT— I HAVE NO CLUE WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL ME, MASTER
...
THE CONDITIONS OF MY VICTORY...

PLEASE, SUPPORT UMINEKO! BUY THE MANGA!

WTDND
GROUP
Translation: Alekth
Cleaning: Nabiki Asakura
Typesetting: Michalv
http://wtdnd.wordpress.com/